

IAC-D-55/8
(Final)
1 March 1955

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INTELLIGENCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MEMORANDUM FOR THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY, NATIONAL
SECURITY COUNCIL

SUBJECT: Semi-Annual Status Report for the NSC on the
Foreign Intelligence Program

REFERENCE: Memorandum from the Executive Secretary, NSC,
to the Director of Central Intelligence "Status of
United States Programs for National Security as
of December 31, 1954," dated 17 December 1954

1. The attached semi-annual report, prepared pursuant to
referenced memorandum, is submitted by the Director of Central
Intelligence for the information of the President and the National
Security Council.

2. This report was approved by the Intelligence Advisory
Committee on 1 March 1955.



Secretary

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cc: Members, Intelligence Advisory Committee

This memorandum may be downgraded
to CONFIDENTIAL when attachment is
removed.

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INTELLIGENCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Semi-Annual Status Report

for the NSC on the Foreign Intelligence Program

Paragraph 10a of NSC 162/2* sets forth the primary missions of the US intelligence system in support of basic national security requirements. This report presents a statement and evaluation of capabilities to carry out these objectives as of 31 December 1954. Section I of the report is addressed primarily to the first of these three objectives (warning of aggression) and Section II to the other two (capabilities and intentions of foreign countries). Section III deals with problems of collection related to all three objectives. Problems of covert collection are considered in Section IV.

* Superseded by NSC 5501, dated 6 January 1955. The missions of the US intelligence system are reaffirmed in the same words (para. 56).

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III. COLLECTION

1. The Foreign Service. Reporting from and collection by the Foreign Service, a primary overt source of intelligence information, continues for the most part to meet expectations.

a. Reporting from behind the Iron Curtain. Reporting remains inadequate in the political and sociological fields, principally because of restrictions on movement and the size of missions. Generally speaking, reporting from and on the USSR from the intelligence point of view has shown some slight gain; in the case of the Satellites, there has been a decline at least in political reporting. Some improvement in reporting has been hoped for because of the greater cordiality of Soviet Bloc officials in their contacts with Western representatives, but little is yet evident. On the other hand, a diminution in the flow of overtly collected materials is expected as a result of probable retaliatory action by the governments of the USSR and Satellites to recent and pending US travel and access restrictions on Soviet diplomatic personnel.

b. Reporting outside the Bloc. The principal handicap to improved Foreign Service reporting is reduced staff. However, strengthened interagency coordination of collection and requirements has contributed to improved reporting, especially in the economic field.

c. Publications Procurement. The continued absence of satisfactory publications procurement from [] and the Middle East is having a cumulative effect and for some areas is beginning to impair analysis in depth.

d. Map Procurement. Collection of maps from the Soviet Bloc has been limited, by continued security restrictions, to atlases and small scale maps. There has been a marked decrease in the procurement of maps and map intelligence from Latin America and from Northwest Europe, because of lack of specialized collectors in these areas.

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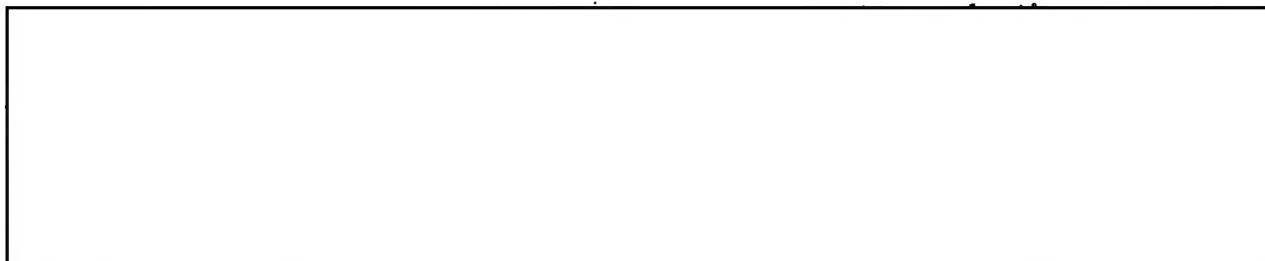
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10. Programs in Electronics



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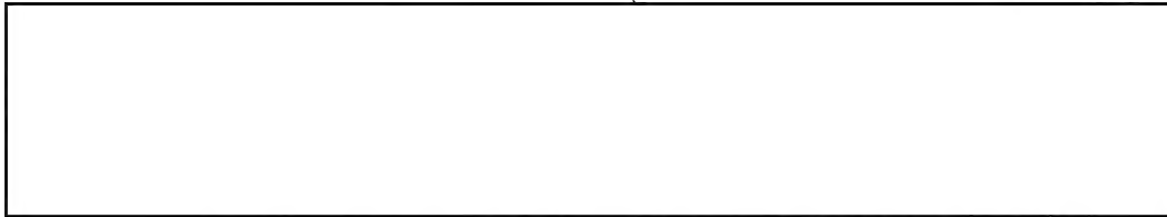
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
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b. Non-Communications Electronic Intercept (ELINT).
ELINT collection activities have assisted materially in gathering information on Soviet equipment and systems, including identification of AI radar in operational use and the establishment of the general nature of Soviet navigational systems. Much remains to be done before a satisfactory integration of the US ELINT effort can be achieved. Meanwhile, liaison with foreign activities in this field, primarily those of the  has improved.

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12. Foreign Language Publications. Further progress has been made in the coordination of foreign publications procurement, particularly from Communist China, and a greater and speedier flow of publications from that area is expected in 1955.

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